<u>REMARKS</u>

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct several

apparent typographical errors and/or to improve its presentation. Claim 1 has been

amended to obviate the examiner's objections thereto and/or to further clarify the concepts

of the present invention. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to

incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 therein and claim 3 has been cancelled.

Dependent claim 4 also has been cancelled and the dependencies of claims 5-8 have

been amended accordingly. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 3-10 are

only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and would be allowable

if rewritten in independent form. Since independent claim 1 has bee amended to

incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 3 therein, it is submitted that claim 1 and

the claims dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance.

In the Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over the patent to Ainsworth et al in view of the patent to Markham et al and

the European patent publication to Lau et al. In making this rejection, it apparently was

asserted that the cited Ainsworth et al patent teaches the method for manufacturing a fuel

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hose except for (1) incorporating acrylate-based monomer B and silica C in the EPDM

composition for the protector layer and (2) using UV polymerization for curing the EPDM

based composition. The Markham et al patent was then asserted to teach the former (1)

and the Lau et al patent publication was alleged to teach the latter (2). Reconsideration

of this rejection in view of the above claim amendments and the following comments is

respectfully requested.

As was mentioned above, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to

incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 3 therein. Thus, it is submitted

that the subject rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35

USC § 103(a) and allowance of claim 1, 2 and 5-10 over the cited patents are respectfully

requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject application is now in

condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an

appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit

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Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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